

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following are claim amendments relative to original patent (U.S. Patent No. 5,848,492), with deleted matter in brackets and added material underlined.

Claims 11, 12, 22, 30, and 37 are amended herein:

E1
11. (Twice Amended) A method for defoliating grape vines comprising:
generating a flow substantially comprising [of] superheated steam; and
delivering the flow of superheated steam to basal leaves adjacent to developing grape berries.

12. (Twice Amended) The method as in claim 11, wherein the superheated steam delivered contacts the basal leaves and is in a temperature range of about 250 ° F to about 500 ° F.

E2
22. (Twice Amended) An agricultural method comprising:
generating a flow of superheated steam in which substantially all of the water droplets are removed from the steam prior to generating said superheated steam; and
delivering the flow of superheated steam to a plant having a graft, where said delivering is sufficient to inhibit a growth of suckers or canes on said plant.

E3
30. (Once Amended) An agricultural method comprising:
generating a flow of superheated steam in which substantially all of the water droplets are removed from the steam prior to generating said superheated steam; and
delivering the flow of superheated steam adjacent to a graft sufficient to inhibit a growth adjacent to said graft.

E4
37. (Once Amended) An agricultural method comprising:
generating a flow of superheated steam in which substantially all of the water droplets are removed from the steam prior to generating said superheated steam; and
delivering the flow of superheated steam to a plant sufficient to fumigate said plant.

Claims 44 – 46 were previously presented in the Amendment of January 31, 2002. They are presented here for the first time in the format required by §1.173:

30 44. (New) The agricultural method of Claim 22, wherein said generating said flow of superheated steam includes:

generating steam in a first steam generator, the steam having water droplets therein;
removing substantially all the water droplets from the steam so as to form a steam substantially free of water droplets; and
heating the steam substantially free of water droplets to at least about 300°F in a second steam generator to form said superheated steam.

5 45. (New) The agricultural method of Claim 30, wherein said generating said flow of superheated steam includes:

generating steam in a first steam generator, the steam having water droplets therein;
removing substantially all the water droplets from the steam so as to form a steam substantially free of water droplets; and
heating the steam substantially free of water droplets to at least about 300°F in a second steam generator to form said superheated steam.

45 46. (New) The agricultural method of Claim 37, wherein said generating said flow of superheated steam includes:

generating steam in a first steam generator, the steam having water droplets therein;
removing substantially all the water droplets from the steam so as to form saturated steam substantially free of water droplets; and
heating the saturated steam to at least about 300°F in a second steam generator to form said superheated steam.